

## News Release

# Communication Faculty Members at the U of M Crookston Mark Huglen and Rachel McCoppin Publish an Essay Chapter Based on Kenneth Burke's "Equipment for Living" in the book Humanistic Critique of Education

By Itollefs on Thursday, April 15, 2010

Ten essays by noted scholars address the significant topics in education including educational policy, methods, and ideology in the recently published book Humanistic Critique of Education: Teaching and Learning as Symbolic Action. Associate professors Mark Huglen, Ph.D., and Rachel McCoppin, Ph.D., are the co-authors of a chapter, entitled "Extending Kenneth Burke and Multicultural Education: Being Actively Revised by the Other," included in the work. Both teach communication courses in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Department at the University of Minnesota, Crookston.



The essay chapters in the book draw upon insights produced by renounced scholar Kenneth Burke's famous essay "Linguistic Approach to Problems of Education" to address the design, practice, and outcomes of educational programs in the new millennium. This particular group of essays, published by Parlor Press and edited by Peter M. Smudde, is the first sustained attempt to apply Burke's profound insights to the problems of educational reform and policy. Burke (1897-1993) is an American literary theorist and philosopher whose work has been influential in study where symbols and symbolic action are a central focus.

In the compilation, Huglen and McCoppin discuss active revision. One way to approach a situation is to argue, but another way is to listen, learn, and choose to change as a result of the encounter. Listening, learning, and changing are part of self-revision. The chapter articulates that too often people defend their own positions at the expense of missing a greater truth. Sometimes the other side is right.

Co-author of several books on communication, Huglen's research interests include rhetoric, organizational communication, theories of communication, argument and political communication. Huglen earned his doctorate in communication from Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., and his master's and bachelor's degrees from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. McCoppin has published works in a number of journals and has research interests in the areas of American transcendentalism, modernism, existentialism and the pedagogy of literature and ethics. She earned her doctorate from Indiana University in Pennsylvania, Ind., and her master's degree from Northern Michigan University in Marquette. Her bachelor's degree is from the University of Michigan - Flint.

To learn more about the communication program at the U of M, Crookston, visit [www.umcrookston.edu/academics](http://www.umcrookston.edu/academics).

Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers more than 25 bachelor's degree programs and 50 concentrations, including several online degrees, in agriculture and natural resources; arts, humanities and social sciences; business; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of about 1,300 undergraduates, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit [www.umcrookston.edu](http://www.umcrookston.edu).

In the photo ( l to r): Rachel McCoppin and Mark Huglen

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